THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNOUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The Government have formulated a Special Scheme for allotment of 500 retail outlets (ROs) dealerships/LPG distributorships to the widows/NOKs of Defence personnel killed in action. Allotments are to be made on the recommendation of the Ministry of Defence. The Directorate General of Resettlement have sent two lists containing a total of 260 proposed beneficiaries for allotment of RO dealerships/LPG distributorship under this Scheme. These include the names of 38 persons belonging to Rajasthan. On the basis of economic feasibility surveys already conducted by Oil Companies the Government have approved the allotment of LPG distributorships/RO dealerships to 116 persons in different States, including 16 persons belonging to Rajasthan.

Oil and Natural Gas Reserves in Rajasthan

t371. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petroleum and natural gas reserves found so far in Rajasthan; and

(b) the place-wise progress made in exploitation of petroleum/natural gas in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The estimated ultimate recoverable reserves of gas as on 1.4.99 established in Jaisalmer basin of Rajasthan by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd. (Oil) is 4.572 Billion Cubic Metre. The ultimate reserves of heavy crude oil at Bikaner-Nagaur basin of Rajasthan is estimated by OIL, as on 1.4.99 to be 2.19 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT).

The Private/Joint Venture Companies have recently discovered oil in Banner district of Rajasthan. The extent of reserves from the discovery, commercial viability etc. are yet to be ascertained.

So far no commercial production of crude oil from Rajasthan by OIL has been made in view its being heavy oil. The sale of gas from Rajasthan was 158.73 Million Metric Standard Cubic Metre (MMSCUM) in 1998-99 and 81.443 MMSCUM in 1999-2000 (up to Oct. 1999).

Joint Gas Pipeline with Iran

372. SHRI SITARAM KESRI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to revive the proposal for laying a gas pipeline jointly by India and Iran, the proposal which was shelved earlier;